

Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions of the claims in the Application. With reference to the listing it is noted that, herewith, claims 6-9 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claim 3 is amended.

Listing of Claims

1. (Previously Presented) An image sensing apparatus employing a flashlight device, comprising:
- a flashlight control circuit which initiates a flashlight illumination emitted from said flashlight device and terminates said flashlight illumination emitted from said flashlight device; and
- a detecting circuit which detects vertical synchronous signals out of an image signal,
- wherein said flashlight control circuit initiates said flashlight illumination in response to a vertical synchronous signal detected by said detecting circuit and terminates said flashlight illumination in response to a next vertical synchronous signal detected by said detecting circuit.

2. (Previously Presented) The image sensing apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising:
- a counter for operating a counting operation synchronously with said vertical synchronous signal detected by said detecting circuit,
- wherein said flashlight control circuit initiates said flashlight illumination when a value counted by said counter amounts to a specified value.

3. (Currently Amended) An The image sending sensing apparatus employing a flashlight device, comprising:

~~a flashlight control circuit which terminates a flashlight illumination emitted from said flashlight device; and~~

~~a detecting circuit which detects a vertical synchronous signal out of an image signal, wherein:~~

~~said flashlight illumination emitted from said flashlight device is terminated synchronously with said vertical synchronous signal; and~~

according to claim 1, wherein said flashlight device is a flat light emission device which can afford continuously a constant luminous quantity.

4-9 (Cancelled)

~~4.~~ (Original) An image sensing method performed by an image sensing apparatus which comprises a flashlight device, a flashlight control circuit, and a detecting circuit, comprising:

initiating a flashlight illumination emitted from said flashlight device by said flashlight control circuit;

terminating said flashlight illumination emitted from said flashlight device by said flashlight control circuit; and

detecting a vertical synchronous signal out of an image signal by said detecting circuit, wherein:

said initiating is in response to a vertical synchronous signal detected by said

detecting circuit; and

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said terminating is in response to a next vertical synchronous signal detected by
said detecting circuit.
